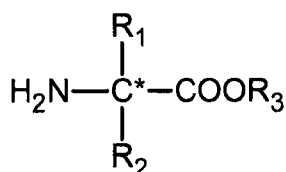


CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) ~~Use as~~ A coating composition comprising:

i) a binder, and

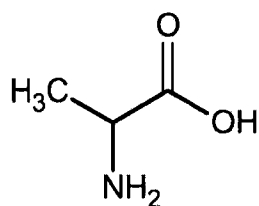
ii) ~~a sag control agent in a coating composition of~~ a rheology modification agent obtainable by reacting one or more polyisocyanates with one or more optically active amino acids, esters ~~and/or~~, salts thereof, or combinations thereof of the general formula (I)



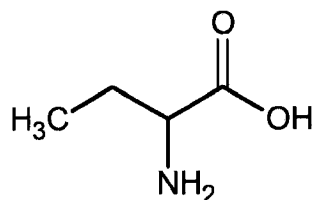
, not as racemic mixture, wherein each of R₁, R₂, and R₃ is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and linear or branched, substituted or unsubstituted, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbyl or heteroatom containing group, with each of R₁ and R₂ being different such that the carbon atom C* is a chiral centre.

2. (currently amended) A coating composition~~Use~~ according to claim 1 wherein the one or more polyisocyanates are selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted linear aliphatic polyisocyanates with an even number of carbon atoms in the chain between two isocyanate groups, ~~as well as condensed dimer and trimer derivatives such as uretdione, isocyanurate or biuret trimers,~~ and substituted or unsubstituted arylene, aralkylene, and cyclohexylene polyisocyanates.

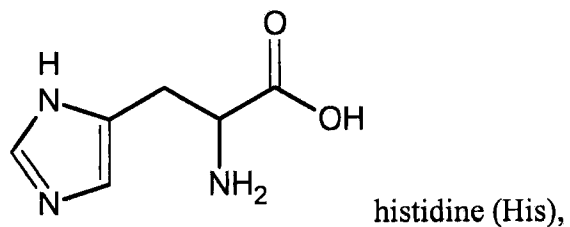
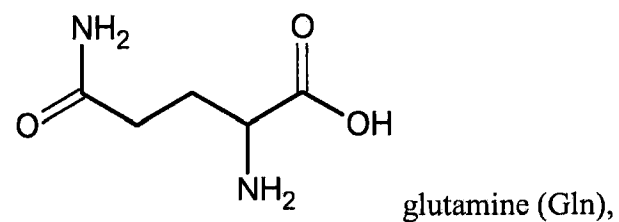
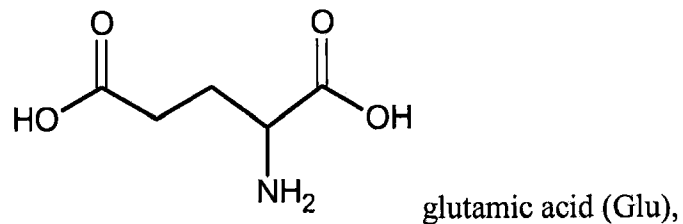
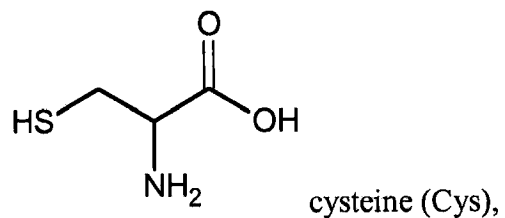
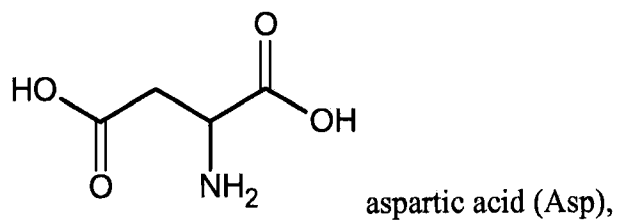
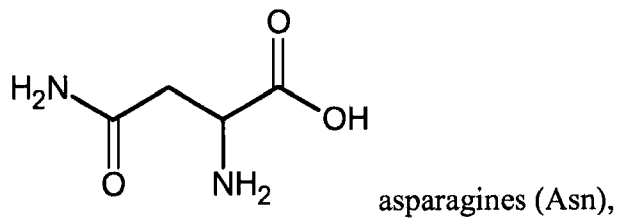
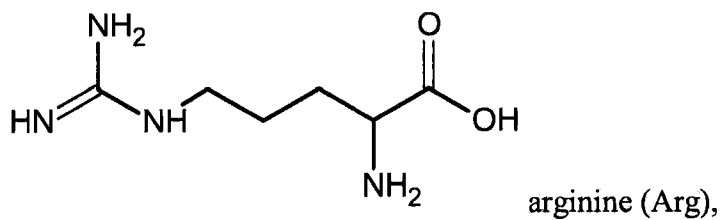
3. (currently amended) A coating composition~~Use~~ according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein the one or more optically active amino acid acids, ~~and/or~~ esters thereof, or combinations thereof of formula (I) are selected from the group of compounds consisting of:

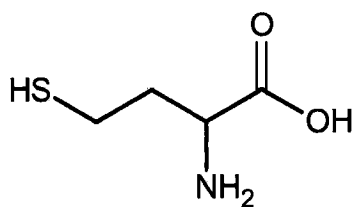


alanine (Ala),

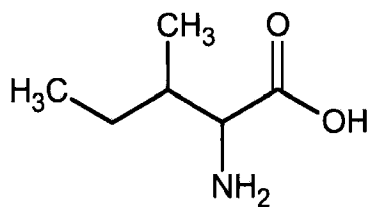


amino butyric acid (Abu),

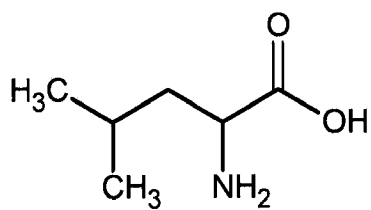




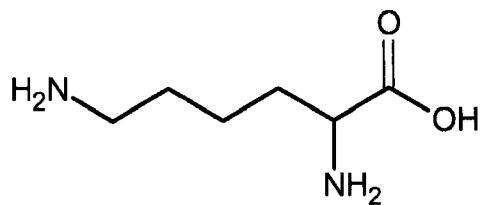
homocysteine (Hcy),



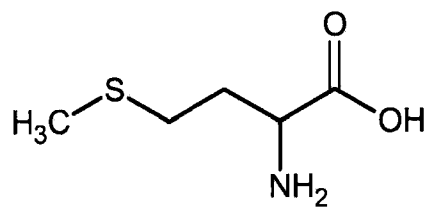
isoleucine (Ile),



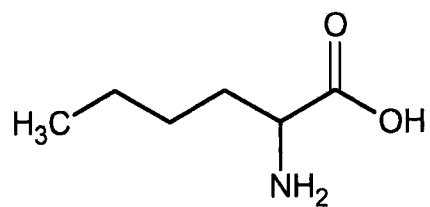
leucine (Leu),



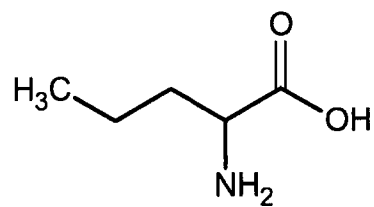
lysine (Lys),



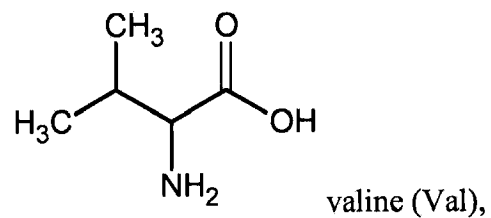
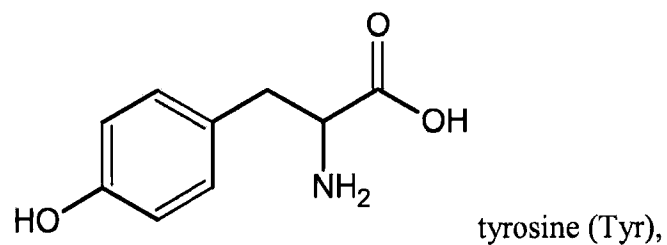
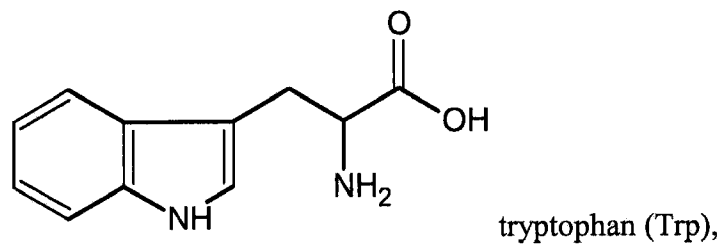
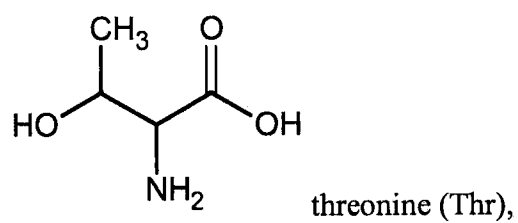
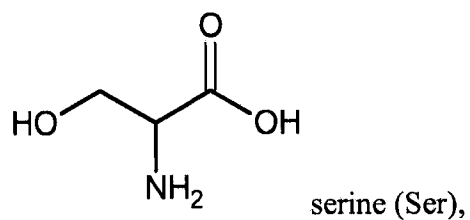
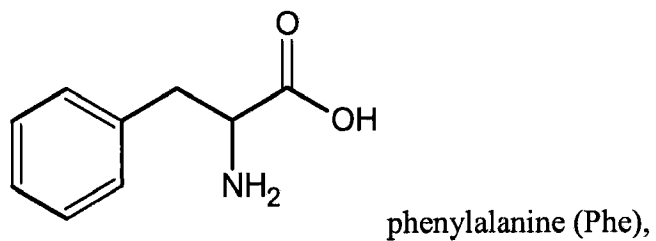
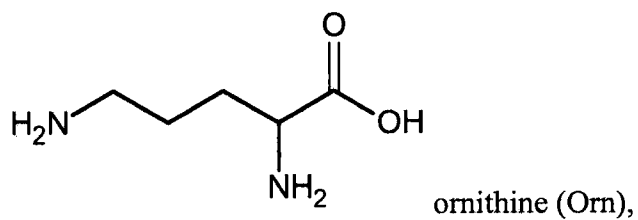
methionine (Met),



norleucine (Nle)



norvaline (Nva),



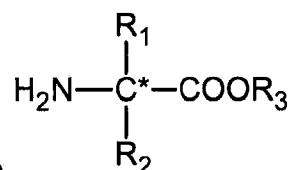
ester derivatives and salts thereof.

4. (currently amended) A coating compositionUse according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1-3 wherein if R_1 , and/or R_2 , or a combination thereof is a hydrocarbyl independently selected from the group consisting of linear, cyclic or branched, substituted or unsubstituted, saturated or unsaturated, optionally hetero atom-containing, C_1 - C_{24} alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, and alkenyl, ~~preferably the group consisting of linear or branched C_1 - C_{24} alkyl, more preferably from the group consisting of linear or branched C_1 - C_4 alkyl, and most preferably the hydrocarbyl is a methyl or ethyl group.~~
5. (currently amended) A coating compositionUse according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1-4 wherein if R_3 is a hydrocarbyl, ~~the hydrocarbyl is selected from the group consisting of linear, cyclic or branched, substituted or unsubstituted, saturated or unsaturated, optionally hetero atom-containing C_1 - C_{25} alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, and alkenyl, more preferably R_3 is selected from the group consisting of linear or branched, substituted or unsubstituted, optionally hetero atom-containing C_1 - C_{25} alkyl, even more preferably from the group consisting of linear or branched, substituted or unsubstituted C_1 - C_8 alkyl, ether and/or, optionally esterified, C_1 - C_8 (poly)alkoxy, and most preferably from the group consisting of linear C_1 - C_4 alkyl and, optionally alkoxylated, linear C_1 - C_4 alkoxy.~~
6. (currently amended) A coating compositionUse according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1-5 wherein the coating composition is an isocyanate based coating composition.
7. (currently amended) A coating compositionUse according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1-5 wherein the coating composition is an acryloyl based coating composition.
8. (currently amended) A coating compositionUse according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1-5 wherein the coating composition is an epoxy curable coating composition.
9. (currently amended) A coating compositionUse according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1-5 wherein the coating composition is a dual curable coating composition.
10. (currently amended) A coating compositionUse according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1-5 wherein the coating composition is a isocyanate-reactive two-component (2K) coating system that is

cured with one or more polyol compounds, thiol compounds, ~~and/or~~ amine-functional compounds, or combinations thereof, at a temperature of at least 25°C and below 150°C; ~~preferably below 100°C.~~

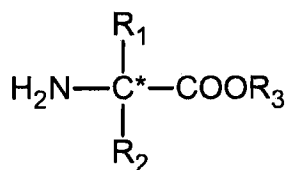
11. (currently amended) ~~Use according to any one of claims 1-10 further~~ A method including comprising the step of applying a coating film of the a coating composition onto a substrate before said coating film is cured; wherein the coating composition comprises:

- i) a binder, and
- ii) a rheology modification agent obtainable by reacting one or more polyisocyanates with one or more optically active amino acids, esters, salts thereof, or combinations thereof



of the general formula (I) , not as racemic mixture, wherein each of R₁, R₂, and R₃ is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and linear or branched, substituted or unsubstituted, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbyl or heteroatom containing group, wherein each of R₁ and R₂ being different such that the carbon atom C* is a chiral centre.

12. (cancelled) ~~Coating compositions comprising a binder and the rheology modification agent according to any one of claims 1-11.~~
13. (cancelled) ~~Coating compositions that are obtainable by using a rheology modification agent in accordance with any one of claims 1-11.~~
14. (new) A method comprising the step of incorporating a rheology modification agent into a coating composition comprising the rheology modification agent and a binder; wherein the rheology modification agent is obtainable by reacting one or more polyisocyanates with one or more optically active amino acids, esters, salts thereof, or combinations thereof of the



general formula (I) , not as racemic mixture, wherein each of R₁, R₂,

and R₃ is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and linear or branched, substituted or unsubstituted, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbyl or heteroatom containing group, wherein each of R₁ and R₂ being different such that the carbon atom C* is a chiral centre.

15. (New) A coating composition according to claim 1 wherein R₁, R₂, or a combination thereof is a hydrocarbyl independently selected from the group consisting of linear or branched C₁-C₂₄ alkyl, linear or branched C₁-C₄ alkyl, a methyl group, and an ethyl group.
16. (New) A coating composition according to claim 1 wherein R₃ is a hydrocarbyl is selected from the group consisting of linear or branched, substituted or unsubstituted, optionally hetero atom-containing C₁-C₂₅ alkyl; linear or branched, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₈ alkyl, ether, optionally esterified, C₁-C₈ (poly)alkoxy; and linear C₁-C₄ alkyl and, optionally alkoxylated, linear C₁-C₄ alkoxy.
17. (New) A coating composition according to claim 1 wherein the coating composition is a isocyanate-reactive two-component (2K) coating system that is cured with one or more polyol compounds, thiol compounds, amine-functional compounds, or combinations thereof, at a temperature of at least 25°C and below 100°C.
18. (New) A coating composition according to claim 1 wherein the one or more polyisocyanates are selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted linear aliphatic polyisocyanates with an even number of carbon atoms in the chain between two isocyanate groups, uretdione triimers, isocyanurate triimers, biuret triimers, and substituted or unsubstituted arylene, aralkylene, and cyclohexylene polyisocyanates.